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*State
Internal
Security*

MEMORANDUM FOR

SUBJECT: Captured German Documents Regarding Communists and Communist Parties

1. The principal German captured document repositories containing data on Communists and Communist Parties are:

- a. Berlin Document Center (BDC).
- b. German Foreign Ministry records now held at National Archives, Washington, D.C.
- c. German military files now held at the Federal Records Center in Alexandria, Virginia. These materials are now being restored to the West German Government.
- d. Scattered collections of German documents available at the Library of Congress and the Hoover Institution at Palo Alto, California.

2. The Berlin Document Center might be considered the principal repository of information pertaining to the subject of the Senate Internal Subcommittee's request. The records of the German Peoples' Court (Volksgerichtshof), one of the fifteen individual collections making up the BDC, contain approximately 20,000 dossiers of persons tried from 1933 to 1945 for membership in, support of or sympathy for the Communist Party. In addition to the data about the conduct and the results of the trial, these dossiers contain detailed summarizations of the results of pre-trial investigations, (mail intercepts, telephone monitoring, surveillance, and interrogations) as well as information about significant occurrences, if any, after the trial.

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3. Two points should be kept in mind when working with these records:

a. The entire Peoples' Court collection at the BDC consists of about 80,000 dossiers and the 20,000 dossiers cited above are interspersed among the others which concern the trials of persons accused of various crimes including black marketing as well as espionage against Germany but not in behalf of a Communist country.

b. An alphabetical index for the entire collection is available, but it contains cards only about the defendant(s) and not about the other persons mentioned in the files (such as the defendant's contacts or the intelligence officer who directed the efforts of the accused, etc.).

4. The historical section of the BDC should also be able to provide a few documents about the subject matter, particularly data recorded in the late 1920's and early 1930's by the Bavarian police which had to combat CP inspired riots and outbreaks of violence between Communists and the brown-shirted Nazis. However, this section's information is limited essentially to the German CP.

5. The other captured German document collections contain scattered materials on the subject matter. Recovery of the pertinent documents, however, is not possible because the holdings are very voluminous; and hence referencing, if at all available, is extremely general and impractical for the conduct of research on specific topics. For example, alphabetical indices of names of persons are not available in any other repository containing papers pertinent to the subject.

6. As noted in paragraph 1, the National Archives in Washington, D.C. has custody of microfilmed copies of a large body of captured records which have been returned to the West German Republic. Generally descriptive summarizations of each reel of film are available at the Archives and could be reviewed for references leading to potential sources of information about the subject.